

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday. 1863.

Madison Avenue  
at 31st Street  
New York

You may as  
 well know the address that will ensure  
 a letter reaching me directly, though I  
 should get only a few hours by it in  
 advance of the Banker. But there it  
 is, as above. Will you excuse this crumpled  
 paper - for it is all I have, & I shall lose the  
 time for writing if I start off now, to buy  
 better. The news of last week, - that the  
 Battle of Chancellorsville was the greatest  
 disaster yet, is confirmed. But it makes  
 no impression, as it causes no result. The  
 story of the flight of the 11<sup>th</sup> Army Corps  
 is frightful. Ingross's Legion was in  
 their way as they came mad & frantic  
 with terror, - shrieking & praying  
 to be allowed to run off in safety,  
 & had not words to express his shafts.  
 "We parted & let them thrust" he  
 said. - It was the only way to save  
 ourselves from being trampled to death.



unless we had made a business of fight-  
ing them. Most of them were injured  
with terror." But they had been fighting  
4 hours, we learn, from 9 o'clock of morn-  
ing, & when they found they were not  
to be supported, while the enemy were  
being reinforced opposite to them, they  
saw way & lost their heads. A whole  
German family, - Colonel, two Lieut-  
enants & two more Subalterns were  
killed in striving to rally them  
& upon <sup>he</sup> to keep along in the flight  
a very superior family - Professor of  
some new York College. Name -  
Peckham. Wendell died here night  
before last. I had written to him full-  
ly about the State of England in  
case he should decide to go - but of  
course I could not counsel his going  
knowing as I do, that with all  
the good he might do, his judg-  
ment is weakened, first by exultation  
of Pittsburg, & then by exultation  
of John Brown - both evils from  
which good may have come but



certainly not to be commended or  
imitated now inasmuch as time makes  
ancient good uncouth, and the saint  
hero & martyr of 200 years ago pattern  
is not a proper pattern for present  
times, however glad we may be that  
the times were up to that. Wendell's

course is towards bloody revolution.

He is not a <sup>either philosophically or on authority</sup> Non-Resistant. He proposes

a quicker process than the Constitu-

tional March, & thanks the English

Common people more awake

to the burdens they bear & more

desirous to throw them off, than they

really are. His mind & heart are both too

limited. In short, however good his inter-

tions, I ~~think~~ he might have himself been

tempted, & am glad he did not go, for he

is not fit for the place. Was not a sufficiently

instructed convert. He might do much good

but had better remain here where he is

certain to do more good & less harm than

elsewhere. William Jay is <sup>in</sup> the

very useful & active on the staff. The

staff was thanked for its bearing & efficiency.



Our Capt. Achmuty told us that Miller  
was the one, for both he & his horse  
held out at the Battle of Chancellorsville  
till the very last & he was as brave  
as possible. I went to the annual  
meeting on Tuesday last, in Cheever's Church.  
It was a full, serious, old-fogy looking  
meeting, - a milestone past which the  
battle has long swept. "Honour it for  
their memories whose bones it stands  
among." Garrison experiences something  
of the difficulty of disbanding an  
Army: some want pay continued  
& some want los. - all but the  
Non-resistants, were upon a narrow  
mental groove, & having got a going,  
can't stop or turn, & are carried cra-  
zily along. The contrast in Garrison's state  
of mind & mine & H. C. Wright, and  
Mrs Child, Mr. May, Pillsbury, &  
Wendell's is curious to observe upon.  
Garrison is as free as air to get up  
in a New York political Ward  
meeting, surrounded by the world  
of Whilome Whorers, - present him  
I say "I have, you know, already  
broken slavery, abolished - were I  
ready to abolish the rest of the world."



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This is a terrible case to some of the  
Abolitionists, who keep crying, "our work  
is not yet done! — why the slaves are  
yet in their chains! — I can hardly  
smother down an outcry against  
Farrison, as one who has deserted the  
cause. He has a deal of private argu-  
ment to do. I spare myself all  
that. I can wait, till the fact is obvi-  
ous to the maddest self-seeker & the  
meanest Captain, that the way to  
do the remaining work is not  
to herd apart from the rest of the  
world, that has the actual burden on  
its shoulders. It is the greatest misfor-  
tune possible to a nation, when its  
Liberals are driven to separate action  
its best men to topical action, as I  
may call it. — to action that is, on one  
topic. But it is the compensating good  
fortune, when a few are found  
to hold this position to which they have  
been driven. I don't wonder that  
just to see, in an instant, when the  
need of that position is seen, & the  
kind of themselves as helpers & counsellors  
replaces the old need of them as lead-  
ers & whisks & awakeners & teachers.



would you believe that I have  
been able to get rid of 6 of those  
old oil-portraits, at \$10. each? —  
Seeing Henry had, in his dining  
room, a portrait of John Jay (the  
original J. J. — famous for the peace-  
city treaty with England, for which he  
was mobbed & burnt in effigy by  
the Jacobins & England-haters,  
on his return.) I presented him with  
Washington & Adams, as pendants.  
I picked up very handsome  
old frames for them, at \$3 1/2 each —  
had them done up at \$1 1/2 more  
each, & there they are, — at an  
expense of \$30. — an actual  
\$300. worth, if one should try to  
let it done. But I have offered  
them so many times <sup>in vain</sup> at \$10 each,  
that this was <sup>clearly</sup> my only chance to let  
any thing for the cause out of  
them. No sooner were they hung,  
than John Jay wanted 4 more  
of them, for Bedford. So I sent



for them — rec'd of them 40 dolls  
— paid it <sup>with mine</sup> over to Garrison, to sustain  
whom against his father & Co the  
pictures were given, — I found  
great satisfaction in seeing the workings  
of the world — old fatality that has been  
called Greek — because that people of  
the beautiful attitude knew how to pre-  
sent it. John & I sit about in  
with "upper chambers" together, dandling  
5. our grandchildren, in a way <sup>that</sup> would  
eclipse the Phaeacians of Sophocles & Euripides.  
— I made Phaeacians doubt  
whether Montague & Capulet  
understood how fate was to be handled.  
I hear lots of people shuddering with  
terror & dismay at the idea of a  
war with England just now. — (Admirable  
is one for example — who can't be  
actual enough — instructs in scolding & pre-  
paring for a war by making up  
lessons, screws & cups & fancies at  
home, & calling England pro-slavery  
What shall we do this Chapman



to stand off this war? " " You remember the Quaker's prescription in such a case, — 'keep a civil tongue in the head friend?' I do not know a better.

Little Henry's hair is cut to-day, & instead of spoiling his looks, he is so handsome that as Mr Weston used to say, it makes him look ten per cent better. I thought when I had communications from Saml Ward, & a deputation offering any money needed, to send Wendell to Sup. I let him know the Americans in Sup. about it, that the work <sup>had taken a complete turn</sup> was an A. S. Soc. But I thought it had taken one turn more, when I got a note from Sarah Shaw, asking me for letters for W. W. Beecher to Harriet Martineau. — with whom she was so engaged to declare that the <sup>forible</sup> League of Masses I shall find under the British flag, was an outrage on the freedom of the



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of the Seas & a violation of the  
 American principle - "no arrest  
 without due process of law." She  
 wrote to Johnson - "Stop my Standard  
 don't look to me to pay these all  
 letters!" (Johnson sent me the letter.)  
 She wrote <sup>to accompany</sup> ~~to accompany~~ me - "I should like  
 to punch her head for her!" I  
 answered reasonably, (for I really  
 am above the reform of small  
 imitations with insufficient informa-  
 tion & abundant ill-temper) explain-  
 ing that whether the ~~people were~~  
 put into a prize court, or <sup>at a cost of \$20,000</sup> stepped  
 red handed cheeks, was not an  
 idle technicality, but a matter that  
 involved all the bulwarks to personal  
 & national freedom that civilization  
 had ever set up; - & we have  
 met affectionately, as ever & helped  
 each other when we could, - all  
 the same; - and I would have  
 sent her the letter for Beecher, -  
 only, unluckily, I never even saw

Ms. A. 1. 2. 31. 62



him - don't know him from Adam,  
in Impulse, plan, or principle.

I was sorry - told her: not only  
as it was her request, but Mattie the  
Hatty Howe's Brother. But what could  
one do? - The fact of not having  
his acquaintance ~~must~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~practical~~  
introduction - of course. And be-  
sides, Harriet is too ill to see persons,  
for the most part. She could not see  
Mattie Griffith, & it was a great  
pain to her that she could not.

Her <sup>Sister's</sup> ~~dislike~~ of ~~William~~, of me &  
of ~~Harriet~~ & ~~William~~ is another

matter - one that grows out  
of ~~her~~ ~~dislike~~ - not her political  
inferiority of Character. This I  
know from something ~~William~~  
said: - ~~William~~ <sup>William</sup> said to her - "It  
makes me so provoked I am out  
of all patience to see what  
a fool Mrs. Vandewater is - ~~William~~







this it is very able. But it wears one out  
with background scenery. It is funny  
to see Henry & John Manning about  
together, in little straw hats bound with black  
& banded with blue, - like a couple  
of mushrooms.

Tuesday morning.

I can only tell you in addition  
of the arrest of Vallentyne  
under martial law. And President  
to the outcry of the Democrats here  
in N.Y. to try to the whole civil war  
here. There was an enormous mob  
about it in Union Square, all ex-  
posed in the streets. The heading  
is "heavenly" & "scale" & "scale"  
attempt at civil war - threat to  
assassinate the President! But I do  
not anticipate any result from it.  
The steady majority of Democrats  
the country over, know better than  
to kill their papoose because they  
are refused aid: - to break down  
their institutions because there are  
men they don't like in them.  
But - their political leaders, disreputable  
from failure, & sustained by ignorance  
of all the world's affairs.



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 Took Mrs. Haters, Mary, as they threat-  
 ened before Seymour's election "continued"  
 to make us a good deal of trouble."  
 Last night we had Mr. Kennedy  
 to tea. He is the nephew of James  
 Lenox, - & newly awakened to  
 Republicanism, - one of John Jay's  
 coadjutors in the Loyal League. He  
 is married - wife was a Miss Laurens  
 Law, - he has hired the cottage  
 "Katonah" Wood at Bedford for the  
 season. He seems a sensible young  
 man enough - he is in no business  
 but waiting for Lenox's shoes & so has  
 leisure to listen to other people's thoughts,  
 even if he have not ability to  
 think his own, & he stayed till late  
 talking. Tell me what I must  
 pay in Paris, for a pt. late dress  
 for next winter? I have a black  
 velvet. One for a flowered more  
 antique, <sup>not</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>ones</sup> & flowers & another  
 it, printed on a light blue cloth.  
 Love to Langel & the babies. Have always felt to thank you.



Heana paid \$100. last winter.  
The Dress maker made it up  
for 36 more. And after all  
it is not suitable for her (so old  
looking, but would just fit me).  
But she & all the younger  
ones, make this mistake of  
dressing themselves too do.  
They dress very handsomely, &  
completely, expensively, & quite  
wholly; but it is tant soit pen  
ville, & tant soit pen grisette.  
All travelled Americans make  
this mistake, I think. But  
they are each one, a perfect success  
compared to other people.

The newspapers say that  
the duke de Chartres is engaged  
to Miss Linnite. The letters from  
the Army - (private & to be  
kept private) etc. of a dreadful



State of things, — a dreadful defeat : —  
a dreadful occupancy of a pack of  
drunkards & debauchees at head  
& quarters. Sickles & Hooker with  
their thin whores & bottles —  
the fads to the former the taste  
to the latter, are making sad work  
& yet I have seen one young  
officer who watched Hooker through  
the battle through & did not discern  
any drink in him. He &  
Sickles are both brave, — & Sickles  
means to be Commander in  
Chief : — Now he has such a good  
character abroad, that he passes for  
what he really is : — a match in  
business for any great soldier of  
ancient or modern times, and  
not being a great soldier either.  
John Jay says — "We are ruled  
by a set of imbeciles  
whom we must obey, or be  
ruled by."



he delivered up to Lincoln's hands  
hand & foot. Sumner is believed  
Mendell believes it at least for it  
was he that got me off - to have  
basely betrayed the cause, by making  
Refr. Hunter a Prussian General  
after the Commander in Chief has  
sustained him for his negro hatred  
conduct; - & that to oblige his Boston  
Constituency: But he misobeyed as man  
& more than he obeyed, 'tis thought.  
Mendell says he is looking toward  
the Presidency, & playing his cards  
accordingly. Mendell is working  
very hard for Fremont with whom  
& Leroy, he is hand & glove. Words  
well express the vigour of his  
attacks on Seward. But nobody cares  
what any body says. 'Tis all  
out of the region of words. Exalt  
such words as "take aim, make ready  
- ground your aims, or fire" as the case  
may be. I am glad to see Adams  
had the sense to ground his arms, when  
the Rebels & their ~~subplots~~ would have been

which I said to Henry - but even thankful all the same.

Well - I want some good friends  
to attend.